

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-40, without prejudice.

Please add claims 41-131, as follows:

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41. (currently amended): A communications system for providing bi-directional electronic communications between users at client computers on a computer network and a global communications network, the electronic communications including both the reception and transmission of data, the system comprising:

a satellite receiver operating to receive download data from the global communications network;

a plurality of client computers on a computer network each of said client computers including first network hardware and first network software for communication with the computer network, each of said client computers also including application software for communications with the information provider;

a server computer, including second network hardware and second network software for communications with the computer network, in electronic communication with said satellite receiver and in electronic communication with the computer network, said server computer operating to receive the download data from said satellite receiver and operating to route the download data to said plurality of client computers for use by the application software on each of said client computers, irrespective of said client computers' operating systems such that said server computer does not require the same operating system for each of said client computers, via the computer network; and said computer network connected to said plurality of client computers and connected to said

server computer whereby said server computer provides routing for the download data to said plurality of client computers; and

a communications device, said communications device being in electronic communications with said server computer, upload data being provided to said communications device via said server computer, and said upload data being sent to the global communications network via said communications device.

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42. (previously presented): The communications system as defined in claim 41 wherein said computer network is a local area network.

43. (previously presented): The communications system as defined in claim 41 wherein said computer network is a wide area network.

44. (previously presented): The communications system as defined in claim 42 wherein said server computer is programmed to route the download data to said plurality of client computers on the local area network irrespective of the client computers' operating systems such that said server computer does not require the same operating system for each client computer of the plurality of client computers.

45. (previously presented): The communications system of claim 42 wherein the upload data is sent at a substantially lower rate than the download data is being received.

46. (previously presented): The communications system of claim 42 wherein the bi-directional electronic communications is asymmetric.

47. (previously presented): The communications system of claim 42 wherein said communications device is capable of receiving additional download data.

48. (previously presented): The communications system of claim 42 wherein the communications device comprises a land-line communications device.

49. (previously presented): The communications system of claim 42 wherein the communications device comprises a wireless communications device.

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50. (previously presented): The communications system as defined in claim 42 further comprising a storage medium wherein said server computer's routing of the download data includes storing the download data on said storage medium.

51. (previously presented): The communications system as defined in claim 50 wherein said storage medium is an intermediate storage medium and wherein the download data is stored on said intermediate storage medium prior to receipt of the download data by said plurality of client computers.

52. (previously presented): The communications system as defined in claim 51 wherein said intermediate storage medium includes a cache.

53. (previously presented): The communications system as defined in claim 42 wherein said server computer runs a server operating system.

54. (previously presented): The communications system as defined in claim 42 wherein said server computer routes the download data using a standard local area network protocol.

55. (currently amended): A computer-readable medium containing instructions for providing bi-directional electronic communications between a plurality of client computers on a computer network and a global communications network, the electronic communications including both the reception and transmission of data, wherein the instructions comprise executable instructions for implementing a method comprising:

receiving download data from a satellite receiver in electronic communication with a server computer, wherein said receiving downloaded data further comprises:

receiving a downloaded packet of data;

establishing a timestamp for said received packet of data;

testing whether said received packet of data is a package delivery or an Internet delivery, wherein if said packet of data is a package delivery providing the capability of broadcasting said packet of data to a plurality of client computers;

routing the download data to the plurality of client computers via the computer network;

receiving upload data from said plurality of client computers via the computer network; and

transmitting the upload data via a communications device to the information provider.

56. (previously presented): The computer-readable medium as defined in claim 55 wherein said computer network is a local area network.

57. (previously presented): The computer-readable medium as defined in claim 55 wherein said computer network is a wide area network.

58. (previously presented): The computer-readable medium as defined in claim 56 wherein said server computer is programmed to route the download data to said plurality of client computers on the local area network irrespective of the client computers' operating systems such that said server computer does not require the same operating system for each client computer of the plurality of client computers.

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59. (previously presented): The computer-readable medium as defined in claim 55 wherein the communications device comprises a land-line communications device.

60. (previously presented): The computer-readable medium as defined in claim 59 wherein said land-line communications device uses an ISDN connection.

61. (previously presented): The computer-readable medium as defined in claim 59 wherein said land-line communications device uses a T1 connection.

62. (previously presented):: The computer-readable medium as defined in claim 59 wherein said land-line communications device comprises a modem.

63. (previously presented): The computer-readable medium as defined in claim 59 wherein said land-line communications device uses a frame-relay network.

64. (previously presented): The computer-readable medium as defined in claim 59 wherein said land-line communications device uses ATM.

65. (previously presented): The computer-readable medium as defined in claim 55 wherein the communications device comprises a wireless communications device.

66. (previously presented): The computer-readable medium as defined in claim 65 wherein the wireless communications device uses a satellite link.

67. (previously presented): The computer-readable medium as defined in claim 55 wherein said computer-readable medium is included in the server computer.

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68. (previously presented): The computer-readable medium as defined in claim 55 wherein said communications device comprises a satellite-based communications device.

69. (previously presented): The computer-readable medium as defined in claim 55 wherein the server computer further comprises a storage medium and wherein said server computer's routing of the download data includes storing the download data on said storage medium.

70. (previously presented): The computer-readable medium as defined in claim 69 wherein said storage medium is an intermediate storage medium and wherein the download data is stored on said intermediate storage medium prior to receipt of the download data by said plurality of client computers.

71. (previously presented): The computer-readable medium as defined in claim 70 wherein said intermediate storage medium includes a cache.

72. (previously presented): The computer-readable medium as defined in claim 55 wherein said server computer runs a server operating system.

73. (previously presented): The computer-readable medium as defined in claim 56 wherein said server computer routes the download data using a standard local area network protocol.

74. (previously presented): The computer-readable medium as defined in claim 55 wherein said server computer operates to route the download data to a plurality of computer networks.

75. (currently amended): A method for providing bi-directional electronic communications between users at a plurality of client computers on a computer network and an information provider, the electronic communications including both the reception and transmission of data, which comprises:

receiving download data from a satellite receiver in electronic communication with a server computer;

routing the download data to the plurality of client computers via the computer network, wherein said routing of said download data further comprises:

testing to determine whether said download data will update the catalog;

if the catalog will not be updated by said download data, testing to determine if the site will be updated by said download data;

if said site will not be updated, storing said downloaded data on a server computer storage device; and

testing to determine if said download data is complete;

receiving upload data from said plurality of client computers via the computer network; and

transmitting the upload data via a communications device to the information provider.

76. (previously presented): The method as defined in claim 75 wherein said computer network is a local area network.

B 77. (previously presented): The method as defined in claim 75 wherein said computer network is a wide area network.

78. (previously presented): The method as defined in claim 75 wherein said server computer is programmed to route the download data to said plurality of client computers on the computer network irrespective of the client computers' operating systems such that said server computer does not require the same operating system for each client computer of the plurality of client computers.

79. (previously presented): The method as defined in claim 75 wherein the server computer further comprises a storage medium and wherein said server computer's routing of the download data includes storing the download data on said storage medium.

80. (previously presented): The method as defined in claim 79 wherein said storage medium is an intermediate storage medium and wherein the download data is

stored on said intermediate storage medium prior to receipt of the download data by said plurality of client computers.

81. (previously presented): The method as defined in claim 80 wherein said intermediate storage medium includes a cache.

82. (previously presented): The method as defined in claim 75 wherein said server computer runs a server operating system.

83. (previously presented): The method as defined in claim 76 wherein said server computer routes the download data using a standard local area network protocol.

84. (previously presented): The method as defined in claim 75 wherein said server computer operates to route the download data to a plurality of computer networks.

85. (currently amended): A communications system for providing bi-directional electronic communications between at least one client computer on a computer network and a global communications network, the electronic communications including both the reception and transmission of data, the system comprising:

a satellite receiver operating to receive download data from the global communications network;

a plurality of client computers on a computer network;

a server computer in electronic communication with said satellite receiver and in electronic communication with the computer network, said server computer operating to

receive the download data from said satellite receiver and operating to route the download data to at least one computer of said plurality of client computers, via the computer network, and wherein said server computer is programmed to route said download data to one or more of said plurality of client computers without requiring each of said plurality of client computers to have the same operating system; and

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a communications device, said communications device being in electronic communications with said server computer, upload data being provided to said communications device via said server computer, and said upload data being sent to the global communications network via said communications device.

86. (previously presented): The communications system as defined in claim 85 wherein said computer network is a local area network.

87. (previously presented): The communications system as defined in claim 85 wherein said computer network is a wide area network.

88. (previously presented): The communications system as defined in claim 86 further comprising a storage medium wherein said server computer's routing of the download data includes storing the download data on said storage medium.

89. (previously presented): The communications system as defined in claim 88 wherein said storage medium is an intermediate storage medium and wherein the download data is stored on said intermediate storage medium prior to receipt of the download data by said at least one of said plurality of client computers.

90. (previously presented): The communications system as defined in claim 89 wherein said intermediate storage medium includes a cache.

91. (previously presented): The communications system as defined in claim 88 wherein said storage medium is included in said server computer.

92. (previously presented): The communications system as defined in claim 86 wherein said server computer runs a server operating system.

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93. (previously presented): The communications system as defined in claim 86 wherein said server computer routes the download data using a standard local area network protocol.

94. (previously presented): The communications system as defined in claim 86 wherein said server computer operates to route the download data to a plurality of local area networks.

95. (currently amended): A computer-readable medium containing instructions for providing bi-directional electronic communications between at least one computer on a computer network and a global communications network, the electronic communications including both the reception and transmission of data, wherein the instructions comprise executable instructions for implementing a method comprising:

receiving download data from a satellite receiver in electronic communication with a server computer;

routing the download data to the plurality of client computers via the computer network, wherein said routing of said download data further comprises:

testing to determine whether said download data will update the catalog;

if the catalog will not be updated by said download data, testing to
determine if the site will be updated by said download data;

if said site will not be updated, storing said downloaded data on a server
computer storage device; and

testing to determine if said download data is complete;

receiving upload data from said at least one computer via the computer network;

and

transmitting the upload data via a communications device to the information
provider.

96. (previously presented): The computer-readable medium as defined in
claim 95 wherein said computer network is a local area network.

97. (previously presented): The computer-readable medium as defined in
claim 95 wherein said computer network is a wide area network.

98. (previously presented): The computer-readable medium as defined in
claim 95 wherein the server computer further comprises a storage medium and wherein
said server computer's routing of the download data includes storing the download data
on said storage medium.

99. (previously presented): The computer-readable medium as defined in
claim 98 wherein said storage medium is an intermediate storage medium and wherein

the download data is stored on said intermediate storage medium prior to receipt of the download data by said at least one client computer.

100. (previously presented): The computer-readable medium as defined in claim 99 wherein said intermediate storage medium includes a cache.

101. (previously presented): The computer-readable medium as defined in claim 95 wherein said server computer runs a server operating system.

B 102. (previously presented): The computer-readable medium as defined in claim 96 wherein said server computer routes the download data using a standard local area network protocol.

103. (previously presented): The computer-readable medium as defined in claim 95 wherein said server computer operates to route the download data to a plurality of computer networks.

104. (currently amended): A method for providing bi-directional electronic communications between a client computer on a computer network and an information provider, the electronic communications including both the reception and transmission of data, which comprises:

receiving download data from a satellite receiver in electronic communication with a server computer;

routing the download data to a client computer via the computer network,
wherein said routing of said download data further comprises:

testing to determine if said download data is in transmission control protocol;

if said download data is not in transmission control protocol, transferring said download data to an IP stack;

if said download data is in transmission control protocol, testing to determine if a begin of section is being initiated;

if a begin of section is not being initiated, testing if an end of session has been encountered; and

if a begin of section is being initiated, testing to determine if a connection slot is available;

receiving upload data from said client computer via the computer network; and
transmitting the upload data via a communications device to the information provider.

105. (previously presented): The method as defined in claim 104 wherein said computer network is a local area network.

106. (previously presented): The method as defined in claim 104 wherein said computer network is a wide area network.

107. (previously presented): The method as defined in claim 104 wherein the server computer further comprises a storage medium and wherein said server computer's routing of the download data includes storing the download data on said storage medium.

108. (previously presented): The method as defined in claim 107 wherein said storage medium is an intermediate storage medium and wherein the download data is stored on said intermediate storage medium prior to receipt of the download data by said client computer.

109. (previously presented): The method as defined in claim 108 wherein said intermediate storage medium includes a cache.

110. (previously presented): The method as defined in claim 104 wherein said server computer runs a server operating system.

111. (previously presented): The method as defined in claim 105 wherein said server computer routes the download data using a standard local area network protocol.

112. (previously presented): The method as defined in claim 104 wherein said server computer operates to route the download data to a plurality of computer networks.

113. (previously presented): A communications system for providing bi-directional electronic communications between a client computer and a global communications network, the electronic communications including both the reception and transmission of data, the system comprising:

a satellite receiver operating to receive download data from the global communications network;

a client computer;

a server computer in electronic communication with said satellite receiver and in electronic communication with the client computer, said server computer ~~operating~~ programmed to receive the download data from said satellite receiver and operating to route the download data to the client computer, irrespective of the operating system of said client computer; and

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a communications device, said communications device being in electronic communications with said server computer, upload data being provided to said communications device via said server computer, and said upload data being sent to the global communications network via said communications device.

114. (previously presented): The communications system as defined in claim 113 further comprising a storage medium wherein said server computer's routing of the download data includes storing the download data on said storage medium.

115. (previously presented): The communications system as defined in claim 114 wherein said storage medium is an intermediate storage medium and wherein the download data is stored on said intermediate storage medium prior to receipt of the download data by said client computer.

116. (previously presented): The communications system as defined in claim 115 wherein said intermediate storage medium includes a cache.

117. (previously presented): The communications system as defined in claim 114 wherein said storage medium is included in said server computer.

118. (previously presented): The communications system as defined in claim 113 wherein said server computer runs a server operating system.

119. (previously presented): The communications system as defined in claim 118 wherein said server computer routes the download data using a standard local area network protocol.

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120. (currently amended): A computer-readable medium containing instructions for providing bi-directional electronic communications between a client computer and a global communications network, the electronic communications including both the reception and transmission of data, wherein the instructions comprise executable instructions for implementing a method comprising:

receiving download data from a satellite receiver in electronic communication with a server computer, the server computer being in electronic communication with the client computer;

routing the download data to a client computer, wherein said routing of said download data further comprises:

testing to determine if said download data is in transmission control protocol;

if said download data is not in transmission control protocol, transferring said download data to an IP stack;

if said download data is in transmission control protocol, testing to determine if a begin of section is being initiated;

_____ if a begin of section is not being initiated, testing if an end of session has been encountered; and

_____ if a begin of section is being initiated, testing to determine if a connection slot is available;

receiving upload data from the client computer; and

transmitting the upload data via a communications device to the information provider.

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121. (previously presented): The computer-readable medium as defined in claim 120 wherein the server computer further comprises a storage medium and wherein said server computer's routing of the download data includes storing the download data on said storage medium.

122. (previously presented): The computer-readable medium as defined in claim 121 wherein said storage medium is an intermediate storage medium and wherein the download data is stored on said intermediate storage medium prior to receipt of the download data by said client computer.

123. (previously presented): The computer-readable medium as defined in claim 122 wherein said intermediate storage medium includes a cache.

124. (previously presented): The computer-readable medium as defined in claim 121 wherein said server computer runs a server operating system.

125. (previously presented): The computer-readable medium as defined in claim 124 wherein said server computer routes the download data using a standard local area network protocol.

126. (currently amended): A method for providing bi-directional electronic communications between a client computer and an information provider, the electronic communications including both the reception and transmission of data, which comprises:

B1 receiving download data from a satellite receiver in communication with a geosynchronous satellite and in electronic communication with a server computer, said download data being received in response to a request from a client computer transmitted over a telephone land line, the server computer being in electronic communication with the client computer;

routing the download data to the client computer;

receiving upload data from the client computer; and

transmitting the upload data via a communications device to the information provider.

127. (previously presented): The method as defined in claim 126 wherein the server computer further comprises a storage medium and wherein said server computer's routing of the download data includes storing the download data on said storage medium.

128. (previously presented): The method as defined in claim 127 wherein said storage medium is an intermediate storage medium and wherein the download data is stored on said intermediate storage medium prior to receipt of the download data by said client computer.

129. (previously presented): The method as defined in claim 128 wherein said intermediate storage medium includes a cache.

B' 130. (previously presented): The method as defined in claim 126 wherein said server computer runs a server operating system.

131. (previously presented): The method as defined in claim 130 wherein said server computer routes the download data using a standard local area network protocol.
